

REMARKS

Claims 1-41 are currently pending. Claim 1 has been amended. Support for the amendment to claim 1 can be found in the specification at, for example, paragraph 0002. The amendment to claim 1 does not constitute new matter.

Claims 1-41 are currently pending and have been subject to restriction. The Examiner asserts that the claims are drawn to 2 patentably distinct inventions as follows:

Group I: Claims 1-15, 36,38, and 40 (drawn to an apparatus for treating raw elongate material)

Group II: Claims 16-35, 37, 39, and 41 (drawn to a method for treating raw elongate material).

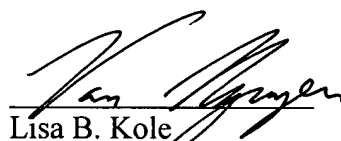
Applicants hereby traverse this restriction requirement for the reasons set forth below. However, to be fully responsive to the restriction requirement, Applicants provisionally elect *with traverse* the claimed apparatus of Group II, claims 16-35, 37, 39, and 41, drawn to a method for treating raw elongate material. Applicants submit that the election is made without prejudice to the prosecution of the subject matter of non-elected claims in divisional, continuation, and continuation-in-part applications.

Applicants submit that the Groups delineated by the Examiner are not distinct, and merit examination together. The Examiner asserts that the inventions are distinct because they can be used to practice another and materially different process, such as grinding meat or extracting juice. Applicants note that the Examiner has not set forth any evidence to suggest that the subject apparatus can be used for practicing any materially different process. Applicants submit that the terms "pulp" and "black liquor" have a well recognized meaning in the paper-making art. See, for example, the specification at paragraphs 0002-0006. The claims include "means for

recovery of treatment material and energy from said *black liquor*, including a processing vessel in the form of a fluidised bed reactor for receiving *black liquor*." (Emphasis added). This feature is specific to the manufacture of pulp as described in claim 16, and forms no part of any art-recognized apparatus for grinding meat or juicing fruit. Applicants submit that the only use of the apparatus of claim 1 is for conducting the process of claim 16, and therefore that the inventions claimed are not distinct.

Accordingly, Applicants respectfully request that the restriction requirement be withdrawn and all claims examined together. Entry of the foregoing remarks into the file of the above-identified application is respectfully requested. An early allowance is earnestly sought.

Respectfully submitted,


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